

Embedded Credit

An embedded credit course incorporates competencies from one subject into another subject and allows students to earn credit for both.

A few years back when the Missouri Department of Secondary & Elementary Education (DESE) decided that students graduating by 2010 would need another 3 credit hours to graduate it really put a pinch on students have the freedom to take elective classes. Therefore, we anticipated a drop in our enrolment at the career center. We looked at this as being a big problem for us, we all ready had student who were losing credit hours because of the bus trip they have to take to get to our facility. (40 minutes – 1 hour) We brain-stormed a little and kick around all kinds of ideas. But it kept coming back to the simple fact that DESE wanted students to have more Math, English, Science and Social Studies. We all felt like the students who were coming to the career center were getting more Math and English within the content of what we were teaching within our career program. So we petitioned DESE to allow us to give students taking a 2 year career education (6 credit hour course) a credit in Math and a credit in English. They said if you can document what is being covered and if it is adequate we will allow that.

The Math was easy for us. And I'm sure that everyone in this room would agree with me that every student should grow in their knowledge and use of mathematics.

The English or Communication Arts was a little harder for us to justify, and in visiting with several members of our advisory committees it was explained just how important technical writing/communications is. It's for and about business and industry, focusing on products and services, whether it's how to manufacture them, market them, manage them, deliver them, and use them. Technical writing is a necessary component of every employee's professional skill. The more

responsibility you have in business & industry, the more you communication skills you need.

Let me just give you a few examples of what we are considering technical writing

Memos and e-mails – for meetings or agendas

Letters – from a vendor to a client

Reports –proposing a new computer system/software - piece of equipment.

Instructions

Brochures and newsletters

Web pages

Resumes

And you're probably saying to yourself this is all good, but how do you fit more into an already full-load of program specific competencies. Well, it's fairly simple, as most of you know when you have more on your plate than you can possible manage, something has to go. And some of you may be asked tonight to help these instructors determine what competencies are most important and which ones we can let go.

Ultimately I feel that ...

By acquiring these skills, our graduates will be better prepared for entry into the work force. This will be true if they enter it upon graduation or continue their education.